Entry of Private Airlines in International Sector

1903. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the proposal of allowing private airlines to fly foreign skies;

(b) if so, the rationale behind such a move; and

(c) whether it will affect the income/business of State Carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government has presently permitted private airlines to operate to SAARC countries against unutilized entitlements of the Indian side subject to the provision for designation of multiple airlines in the respective Air Services Agreement;

(b) This has enhanced connectivity with the neighbouring countries besides having a beneficial impact on trade, commerce and tourism;

(c) As the private airlines have been allowed to operate to SAARC countries against the unutilized entitlements of the Indian side, no adverse impact on our national carriers is "envisaged because of this decision.

Discounted Fares on Goa-London Sector

1904. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of private international carriers are flying to Goa from London and other European countries during this season;

(b) whether Government are also aware that these private airlines are offering Goa-London return fare at about Rs 16,000/- per passenger; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to match this fare on Air India's flight to London and Europe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Designated British carriers are not